

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 11, 2004, in which the claims were subject to a restriction. With this amendment, claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 16 and 19 are amended, and new claims 20-31 are added such that the claims pending for examination are claims 13-31.

Claim 16 is amended to clarify that claim 16 further limits the sensing function of the means for sensing claim element of independent claim 13. Claim 19 is amended to clarify the means for sensing comprises a dummy magnetoresistive element and means for sensing an electrical response of the dummy magnetoresistive element. Claim 19 is also amended to correct a lack of antecedent basis.

Restriction/Election

The Office Action subjected the claims to a restriction requirement, dividing the claims into two separate inventions: claims 1-12 drawn to a method of controlling a material removal process; and claims 13-19 drawn to a device for material removal. With this Response, Applicant elects the invention claimed in claims 13-19, drawn to a device for material removal. New claims 20-31 are presented, which are likewise directed to a device for material removal. Claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice so that applicant may pursue the claims in a divisional application, should the applicant choose to do so.

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Application No.: 09/864,562

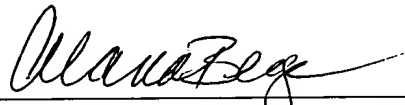
-7-

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 19, 04

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